

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

As the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Fire Services and Law Enforcement Caucuses, we write to express our strong support for the Next Generation 9-1-1 Act of 2021. This legislation will provide critical updates to our nation's 911 infrastructure, protect it from cyber threats, and ensure that first responders are able to efficiently use Next Generation 9-1-1 technology to save lives. We request the lifesaving benefits of this legislation be realized by incorporating it into any infrastructure package considered by the House of Representatives.

The Next Generation 9-1-1 Act would enable interoperability between Emergency Communications Centers and first responders across varying jurisdictions. This bill would ensure all Emergency Communications Center operators work in conjunction with one another without proprietary interfaces. This legislation would also enable 911 operators to receive text, video, voice, and view related requests for emergency assistance with every request they receive.

Next Generation 9-1-1 technologies will put a tremendous amount of information about reported emergencies at the disposal of first responders. This information is crucial in enabling first responders to swiftly respond to emergencies where every second could mean the difference between life and death. However, this information can also be difficult to parse without training. We are pleased that grants provided through this legislation will go to such trainings to enable first responders to fully take advantage of these innovative technologies.

As cyberattacks become more frequent and attackers become more sophisticated, it is critical that Next Generation 9-1-1 infrastructure be properly protected. The Nationwide Next Generation 9-1-1 Security Operations Center established by this legislation will provide this needed protection. This center will carry out numerous functions that are essential to securing Next Generation 9-1-1 infrastructure including identifying cybercriminals, vetting third parties that connect to the 911 system, providing local operations centers with layered security, and sharing information and plans to mitigate and respond to cyberattacks.

As Next Generation 9-1-1 technology evolves and is deployed around the country, law enforcement, fire, and EMS agencies in urban, suburban, and rural areas will encounter varying issues. To ensure that Next Generation 9-1-1 technology is utilized optimally, stakeholders representing multiple agencies and geographic areas across the country must be frequently

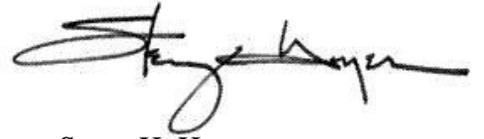
consulted. We are glad this legislation includes a Next Generation 9-1-1 Advisory Board to accomplish this critical coordination and collaboration. The board's 16 members from various law enforcement, fire and rescue, and EMS agencies will provide valuable input to ensure Next Generation 9-1-1 is always meeting the needs of its users and the general public.

We thank you for your consideration of including this important bill in upcoming infrastructure legislation. If enacted, the Next Generation 9-1-1 Act will vastly improve first responders' ability to assist our constituents and save lives. We look forward to working with you to move this critical legislation forward.

Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



John Rutherford
Member of Congress